

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC. METROPOLIS PRESIDENT REPORT 2024 - 2026



Metropolis of Detroit

Stephanie Storgion Poplos, President

2026 National Philoptochos Convention, Cleveland, Ohio

June 29 – July 2, 2026

Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America,
Your Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos,
Esteemed National Philoptochos President, Mrs. Debbie George,
Beloved sisters in Christ,

The Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos Conference was held in Fort Wayne IN on October 23-24, 2025. We had a fantastic conference for our Metropolis Philoptochos hosted by the Philoptochos Chapter 7001 with over 44 registered delegates. Over the two days of meetings, we had sessions that included time for us to meet in fellowship and to have an open forum discussion to hear the questions brought from chapters by their delegates. Speakers included Dr. Jim Gore, President of the Metropolis of Detroit St. Panteleimon Healthcare Society, an Associate Participant of the [Network of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for Pastoral Healthcare](#), and Ms. TC Spellman from the YWCA NE Indiana spoke to us on domestic violence. Both speakers received donations for their organizations. Our awards breakfast gave us ample time to recognize the works of our chapters in many areas.

Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos Membership:

Over the past two years, membership within our Metropolis has fluctuated, with 1867 members in 2024 to 1808 in 2025. As of June 2026 paid membership is 1773.

Current Chapter Data:

1. 33 Active Chapters, 5 Inactive, 1 chapter (Lansing MI) dissolved as of Jan 01, 2026 (has paid all national and metropolis commitments for 2025).
2. Inactive Chapters:
 - Since 2021: Binghamton MI/ Elmira, MI/ Springfield OH/ Watertown NY
 - Since 2023: Vestal, NY: President Stephanie Storgion Poplos visited Vestal NY community Jan 3-4, 2026 at request of Fr. Philip Yanulis to try to reactivate chapter. Meeting with women of community went well, though they have chosen not to reactivate their chapter.
3. Largest Chapter: Dayton OH 147 members (as of May 2026)
4. Smallest Chapters (tied): Middletown OH and Ithaca NY, both with 15 members as of May 2026

Metropolis of Detroit Commitments:

Our Metropolis has five commitments for our Chapters:

- Partners in Philanthropy,
- Summer Camps Fund (supports the three summer camps in the Detroit Metropolis, with support allocated for campers and the camps in the region assigned to the chapters)

- Metropolis of Detroit Scholarship Fund for HC/HC students
- Emergency Fund
- St Spyridon Fund (supports the ministries of our Metropolis)

Partners in Philanthropy: *Margaret Yates, Chair*

- The Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos Board social services ministry was established as the Partners in Philanthropy Fund during the presidency of Eleni Zaferes in 2009 to help those in our Metropolis who needed a financial helping hand and has been led by the Chair, Margaret Yates from its inception.
- Partners in Philanthropy is funded as a chapter commitment and from the other fundraising efforts of the Board, along with additional donations. In 2025 we helped six people in our Metropolis for a total of \$18,689.66. Monies were allocated to pay the bills for funeral expenses, rent, food cards, medical care, back property taxes to prevent foreclosure and to help purchase a car engine so the parishioner can commute to work.
- In 2026 we are currently working on a case to help with medical bills for an individual undergoing cancer treatment. Requests seem to always slow down as summer approaches but we know they will pick up as the need arises.
- Requests for assistance from the Partners in Philanthropy Fund come from the parish priest and chapter president and are kept confidential. We also receive requests from Paulette Geanacopoulos, our National Philoptochos Social Worker, as she may receive the request from someone in our Metropolis of whom we are unaware, and the committee refers individuals who may need additional help to National Philoptochos Social Services.

Metropolis of Detroit Fundraisers:

The Metropolis of Detroit has one major fundraiser each year, alternating between a themed luncheon and a virtual “No-Show” Fundraiser, both supporting the ministries of the Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos.

- In 2025 our event was a “Philanthropy in Hope” luncheon under the leadership of Paula Kalevas, First Vice President and Chair. Sponsorships totaled \$23,500. Key Note Speaker was Dorrie Papdemetriou with Mud Girls.
- In 2026, our “No Show Fundraiser” was Celebrating professors, teachers, coaches and mentors, with sponsorships totaling \$11,530.

Florence G. Stefanou Memorial Scholarship: *Theone Dickos, Chair*

In 2018, the Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos Board was proud to establish the annual Florence G. Stefanou Memorial Scholarship through the generosity of the Stefanou family as a tribute to their late mother. Florence Stefanou was a devoted Philoptochos member serving on all levels, her local chapter, the Metropolis Board as member and President (2015), and the National Board. The scholarships are awarded by the Stefanou family to the applicant who best reflects Florence’s passion, dedication, and values for the Philoptochos mission which exemplifies the fulfillment of helping those in need.

- 2025 Recipient: Irene Victoria Petrutiu
Attending Michigan State University Lansing, MI
Daughter of Fr. Teodor and Presbyteria Roxana Petrutiu,
Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Westland, MI

- 2026 Recipient: Eve Feles
Attending: Washington University, St. Louis, MO
Daughter of Nicholas and Melanie Feles
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Troy, MI

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Storgion Poplos, President
Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos